

NEWSLETTER #15

Hi Fans!

Promised you more tour news so here we go. While attending RIAA dinner Karen and Richard had the pleasure of meeting Paul Anka and Roger Williams as well as numerous presidents of record companies. At the party afterwards, tons of peanuts in the shell were in abundance and before the party ended the floor was carpeted with wall-to-wall peanut shells.

In Baltimore, K & R stayed at Bear's home and the first night there, were treated to a hard shell crab feast which they thoroughly enjoyed. The next evening found them at Baskin Robbins 31 Flavors where Bear formerly worked. So once again he donned his B/R cap and served the famous Carpenters.

Spartanburg will forever live in their memories for several reasons. It was there that they (and no doubt numerous other persons) were recipients of a most unusual wake up call. At 11:00 AM a friend buzzed their hotel in his plane to let them know it was time to get up. "That was some alarm clock," Karen said. It was also Spartanburg where they rode to the gig in a funeral limo. This in itself was not too unusual, but the little old chauffeur that drove them is endeared in their hearts. Most of his driving jobs were funeral processions which he drives at 15 mph or thereabouts. So their jaunt to the gig was at that rate of speed and what should have been a 10 minute ride took them 45 minutes. To Richard who loves to do his own driving it seemed like 45 years.

At the gig there, they had some power trouble. Seems every time a momentary black out was called for, the power would poop out altogether and it would take awhile to get it back on. They jokingly blamed Bear and "strangled" him between bows.

In Gainesville, an airport limo took them to their gig where there seemed to be a shortage of dressing rooms and all performers had to share the same one. But Karen, with the aid of a huge blackboard managed to construct herself her own private dressing room corner. (She was a Carpenter in more than name that night.)

On stage, after finishing "Cinderella Rockafella" with Doug, Karen crossed to the other side of the stage to render "Superstar." She wondered as she approached Richard what he was cracking up about. What she didn't know then was that a pair of workmen's gloves carelessly left on stage, had caught on her microphone cord and were mysteriously following her across stage like an invisible glove-wearing individual walking on their hands. Any wonder Richard was laughing.

The Regency Hyatt House, with a lobby 20 stories high, in Atlanta was very impressive to K & R. They enjoyed their brief stay there very much. They were also impressed by the Abbey which in its day was quite a church. Care has been taken to keep it resembling the original; pews and all. After their gig an all night "oldies piano contest" was held between Richard & five other fellows. Richard was the winner easily remembering and playing songs that were written before he was born.

A very impressive event for all parties concerned was a luncheon at the White House. They dined with presidential assistants, James Cavanaugh, Ken Cole, and Ron Ziegler and later had the pleasure of meeting the President's daughter, Julie Eisenhower. President Nixon was meeting with Mr. Kissinger, so K & R did not meet him; but were invited back at a later date. They were given a tour of the White House and were impressed with the Cabinet Meeting Room which housed a extremely long table & lovely large chairs with name plaques displaying the name of each member. At the close of his service the member is presented the chair as a gift. When Karen heard this she quiped "Just like the Carol Burnett Show," which brought smiles to the faces of the solemn dignitaries, Karen was remembering the lovely director's chairs sporting their names, presented to her & Richard at their initial Carol Burnett Show appearance.

The new album is finally released. Got word from A&M moments ago. Sorry about the delay which was attributed to the covers.

TO FANS IN OHIO: Carpenter gig in Blossom has been canceled due to a clause in the contract which they could not honor as it would be unfair to the concert goers. If you have already purchased tickets you are entitled to a refund.

Next month--news about their Australian & Oriental tour.
See ya then,

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